

Message

From: Medina-Vera, Myriam [Medina-Vera.Myriam@epa.gov]
Sent: 6/17/2020 4:17:49 PM
To: Oshima, Kevin [Oshima.Kevin@epa.gov]
Subject: FYI: Questions from ORD-IOAA regarding media inquiry from WHQR public radio - Three Years Later - Chemours, GenX, PFAS ...

Hi Kevin,

Mark followed all the guidance provided by the communications team and now the story is the EPA chose not to comment. This is an issue that makes our scientist very uncomfortable as reporters know they are working on something, they follow the communications team guidance and then it looks like they are unresponsive. Very uncomfortable situation for high visibility projects.

Myriam Medina-Vera, Ph.D.
Chief MMB/WECD/CEMM
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From: Strynar, Mark <Strynar.Mark@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Smith, Emily J. <Smith.Emily@epa.gov>
Cc: Medina-Vera, Myriam <Medina-Vera.Myriam@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Questions from ORD-IOAA regarding media inquiry from WHQR public radio - Three Years Later - Chemours, GenX, PFAS ...

FYI,

I just got to read and hear the story from Vince yesterday. Here is what he says about the EPA (as well as NCDEQ and Chemours).

"I reached out to the EPA, Chemours and the state's Department of Environmental Quality for this story. All chose not to comment. "

<https://www.whqr.org/post/special-report-three-years-genx-pfas-and-chemours>

Apparently no one got back to him with any comments.

Mark

Dr. Mark Strynar
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From: Smith, Emily J. <Smith.Emily@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Strynar, Mark <Strynar.Mark@epa.gov>
Cc: Medina-Vera, Myriam <Medina-Vera.Myriam@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Questions from ORD-IOAA regarding media inquiry from WHQR public radio - Three Years Later - Chemours, GenX, PFAS ...

Hi Mark- When I asked ORD Communications about this, they said that ORD-IOAA determined that OW should respond to the reporter's questions and so the media inquiry was sent to the OW communications director to work with OPA to respond.

-Emily

Emily J. Smith
Communications & Outreach
Center for Environmental Measurement & Modeling (CEMM)
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109 T.W. Alexander Drive
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"Protecting human health and the environment by delivering innovative measurement and modeling solutions to EPA and our partners"

From: Strynar, Mark <Strynar.Mark@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 2:05 PM
To: Smith, Emily J. <Smith.Emily@epa.gov>
Cc: Medina-Vera, Myriam <Medina-Vera.Myriam@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Questions from ORD-IOAA regarding media inquiry from WHQR public radio - Three Years Later - Chemours, GenX, PFAS ...

Emily,

What ever happened with this?

Mark

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From: Smith, Emily J. <Smith.Emily@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Strynar, Mark <Strynar.Mark@epa.gov>
Cc: Medina-Vera, Myriam <Medina-Vera.Myriam@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Questions from ORD-IOAA regarding media inquiry from WHQR public radio - Three Years Later - Chemours, GenX, PFAS ...

Thank you Mark! I've shared your responses with ORD Communications, and also with Tim Watkins who has asked me to keep him in the loop on feedback we get on things from ORD-IOAA. I'll let you know what I hear back regarding next steps. I appreciate your work on this!

-Emily

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"Protecting human health and the environment by delivering innovative measurement and modeling solutions to EPA and our partners"

From: Strynar, Mark <Strynar.Mark@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Smith, Emily J. <Smith.Emily@epa.gov>
Cc: Medina-Vera, Myriam <Medina-Vera.Myriam@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Questions from ORD-IOAA regarding media inquiry from WHQR public radio - Three Years Later - Chemours, GenX, PFAS ...

Emily,

Here are my comments to Davids questions. I kept his questions in red and my response in blue.

Mark

Dr. Mark Strynar
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From: Smith, Emily J. <Smith.Emily@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 1:15 PM
To: Strynar, Mark <Strynar.Mark@epa.gov>
Cc: Medina-Vera, Myriam <Medina-Vera.Myriam@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Questions from ORD-IOAA regarding media inquiry from WHQR public radio - Three Years Later - Chemours, GenX, PFAS ...

Hi Mark,

David Dunlap in the ORD-IOAA has asked for some additional information related to your responses to this media inquiry. His comments are below. Could you please work on responses for him? Thank you!

ORD Communications is reaching out to OW and OPPT about this media inquiry, as someone from one of those offices may be the spokesperson for Vince's non-research questions.

Let me know if you have questions or want to Skype to discuss.

Thanks much! Hope you're doing well!

-Emily

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"Protecting human health and the environment by delivering innovative measurement and modeling solutions to EPA and our partners"

From: Dunlap, David <dunlap.david@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:29 PM
To: Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>
Cc: Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer <Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Maguire, Megan <Maguire.Megan@epa.gov>; Fitzpatrick, Kacey <Fitzpatrick.Kacey@epa.gov>; Fitzmorris, Amanda <fitzmorris.amanda@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: From Vince - Three Years Later - Chemours, GenX, PFAS ...

See comments below. I have a few questions and need some clarity.

Has the reporter ask to interview anyone in OW? In light of the questions, I believe it would be important to have someone from OW engaged as well.

DDD

David D. Dunlap
O – 202.564.6620

From: Vince Winkel <vwinkel@whqr.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Smith, Emily J. <Smith.Emily@epa.gov>; Strynar, Mark <Strynar.Mark@epa.gov>
Subject: From Vince - Three Years Later - Chemours, GenX, PFAS ...

Hello! I hope you all are well.

In June, it will be three years since the StarNews broke the story on GenX and PFAS contamination in the river and drinking water.

I'm doing a lengthy report airing Friday June 5.

(Shorter than my one-hour special from 2017 - <https://www.whqr.org/post/special-report-genx-toxic-year>)

I'd like to schedule an interview to get your perspective. What we know today, compared to 3 years back. Over the phone this time.

Would you have any time this week, or early next week?

Also, Emily, would there be someone at HQ in DC I could interview, for an update on National EPA efforts? Via phone.

Thanks, Vince

Vince Winkel

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vwinkel@whqr.org

Kacey's email w Mark's talking points is below:

Subject: Interview request for Mark Strynar

Hi- Jennifer and David- Vince Winkel is back and doing a new story. In June, it will be three years since the news broke about GenX and PFAS contamination in the Cape Fear River. He is doing a lengthy report airing Friday June 5. He would like to interview Mark about what we know, compared to 3 years back. He also wants to talk to someone in HQ for an update on national EPA PFAS efforts. Okay to move ahead?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

References:

- T.C. Guillette, James McCord, Matthew Guillette, M.E. Polera, Kyle T. Rachels, Clint Morgeson, Nadine Kotlarz, Detlef R.U. Knappe, Benjamin J. Reading, Mark Strynar, Scott M. Belcher Elevated levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in Cape Fear River Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*) are associated with biomarkers of altered immune and liver function. 2020 *Env. Intl.* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2019.105358>
- Nadine Kotlarz, James McCord, David Collier, C. Suzanne Lea, Mark Strynar, Andrew B. Lindstrom, Adrien A. Wilkie, Jessica Y. Islam, Katelyn Matney, Phillip Tarte, M.E. Polera, Kemp Burdette, Jamie DeWitt, Katlyn May, Robert C. Smart, Detlef R.U. Knappe, and Jane A. Hoppin. Measurement of novel, drinking water-associated PFAS in blood from adults and children in Wilmington, North Carolina. 2020 *in review*
- Chuhui Zhang, Zachary R. Hopkins, James McCord, Mark J. Strynar, and Detlef R. U. Knappe Fate of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Ether Acids in the Total Oxidizable Precursor Assay and Implications for the Analysis of Impacted Water. *ES&T Letters* 2019 DOI:10.1021/acs.estlett.9b00525
- James McCord and Mark Strynar. Identification of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in the Cape Fear River by High Resolution Mass Spectrometry and Nontargeted Screening *ES&T* (2019) DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.8b06017
- Justin M. Conley, Christy S. Lambricht, Nicola Evans, Mark J. Strynar, James McCord, Barry S. McIntyre, Gregory S. Travlos, Mary C. Cardon, Elizabeth Medlock-Kakaley, Phillip C. Hartig, Vickie S. Wilson, and L. Earl Gray Jr. Adverse Maternal, Fetal, and Postnatal Effects of Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid (GenX) from Oral Gestational Exposure in Sprague-Dawley Rats. 2019 <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP4372>
- Bevin E. Blake, Harlie A. Cope, Samantha M. Hall, Robert D. Keys, Beth W. Mahler, James McCord, Brittany Scott, Heather M. Stapleton, Mark J. Strynar, Susan A. Elmore, and Suzanne E. Fenton. Evaluation of Maternal, Embryo, and Placental Effects in CD-1 Mice following Gestational Exposure to Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) or Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid (HFPO-DA or GenX) 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP6233>
- Shaza Gaballah, Adam Swank, Jon R. Sobus, Xia Meng Howey, Judith Schmid, Tara Catron, James McCord, Erin Hines, Mark Strynar, and Tamara Tal. Evaluation of Developmental Toxicity, Developmental Neurotoxicity, and Tissue Dose in Zebrafish Exposed to GenX and Other PFAS. 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP5843>

Carolyn Hubbard
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Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Vince Winkel <vwinkel@whqr.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Smith, Emily J. <Smith.Emily@epa.gov>; Strynar, Mark <Strynar.Mark@epa.gov>
Subject: From Vince - Three Years Later - Chemours, GenX, PFAS ...

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Thanks, Vince

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